PURPOSE
This policy covers the rules pertaining to campaigning for chapter and/or national office. Any reference to “candidate” speaks to a candidate for national board of directors, Gilmer Institute of Learning trustees and chapter board of directors.

POLICY
(National) candidates may discuss in verbal or written communications among the membership that they are interested in seeking a National Board seat. However, candidates may neither distribute campaign material nor officially campaign to other chapters in monthly meetings or other official SGMP gatherings until the (national) Nominations & Elections Committee has officially notified them that they will be on the ballot and that the campaign period is open.

(National and chapter) candidates may not speak negatively about other candidates. The emphasis should be on the qualifications and what the individual candidate will bring to the organization.

(National) candidate promotional materials may be distributed to any Chapter President for distribution at chapter meetings following the National Board approval of the official list of candidates and until the end of the campaign period in an election year. The actual dates to distribute (national) candidate information will be outlined in the (national) “Campaign Materials Guidelines” that are provided to the (national) candidates after the election ballot has been approved. As a matter of this policy, the dates outlined in the (national) “Campaign Materials Guideline” and nominations and elections timelines will be accepted as part of the official (national) policy each year.

♦ Each (national) candidate is responsible for assuring the information is delivered to meet the specific needs of each chapter meeting
♦ Chapter Presidents are responsible for making sure that all (national) campaign materials sent to the chapter are made available to the chapter membership

(National) campaign materials may also be mailed to individuals during this same time period if the candidate chooses to do so.
Individuals who are running for election are allowed to campaign by utilizing various forms of social media (i.e., Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.) up until the end date and time of the campaign period, as outlined in the guidelines/rules. Thereafter, individuals are prohibited from any form of campaigning so as not to unduly influence the voting membership. Any candidate found violating the campaign guidelines/rules will be disqualified and not allowed to run for election.

Campaign material sent by another SGMP or non-SGMP member on behalf of the candidate is prohibited. If the candidate running for election is unable to personally send their campaign materials, he/she must notify the national N&E chair and seek permission to have their materials sent by another SGMP or non-SGMP member. The use of official chapter logo on campaign material is allowed.

(National) candidates are not allowed to participate in or produce campaign video presentations in the SGMP nominations and elections process. Members are prohibited from making or producing these presentations on behalf of a (national) candidate.

Planners may not solicit any funds from any member in their professional capacity to assist in the cost of (national and chapter) campaign materials.

(National and chapter) candidates are encouraged not to spend a great deal of money for campaign purposes.

(National) candidates are to notify the (national) Nominations & Elections Committee chair of any planned chapter visit, specifically for the purpose of campaigning, prior to the visit. The (national) Nominations & Elections Chair will contact the assigned (national) committee member, who will notify the Chapter President of the visit. In addition, the (national) Nominations & Elections committee member will notify other candidates seeking election to the same position that this candidate will be visiting a chapter.

(National and chapter) candidates cannot align with other candidates to form a slate of candidates who have agreed to run together.
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<tr>
<th>SUBJECT: CAMPAIGNING FOR NATIONAL AND CHAPTER ELECTED POSITIONS</th>
<th>SECTION: NOMINATIONS &amp; ELECTIONS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Policy No: NE-2 (continued)</td>
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<td>Date of Origin: July 1989</td>
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It is understood that SGMP members will have preferences among national and/or chapter candidates and it is certainly acceptable that there will be discussions among members regarding nominations & elections issues and candidates. However, SGMP members are prohibited from publicly endorsing any one candidate or candidates (national and/or chapter).

Chapter Presidents will display all (national) campaign material provided by candidates, if in accordance with SGMP’s “Campaign Materials Guidelines,” for chapter meetings held during the election timeframe.

Current National Board members seeking election are prohibited from using SGMP funds to travel to chapters during SGMP (national) elections, unless they are on pre-approved authorized business travel prior to completion of the nomination form deadline. Requests received for travel after the nomination form deadline must have approval of the (national) Nominations & Elections Committee Chair.

Chapter treasuries may not disburse any funds to support a particular (national) candidate other than to provide travel support for a pre-arranged training function.

Each official candidate running for a National Board position may receive a free voting member mailing list from SGMP Headquarters.

Candidates must adhere to stated campaign policies and maintain dignity and decorum. SGMP must not be placed in any situation that would reflect poorly on its reputation in the hospitality industry.

Unprofessional and/or unethical conduct during the nominations & elections period (national or chapter) by any nominee or candidate may be referred to SGMP for review of a Code of Ethics violation, and such conduct may be cause for disqualification on the official ballot.

Unprofessional and/or unethical conduct during the nominations & elections period (national or chapter) by any SGMP member may be referred to SGMP for review of a Code of Ethics violation.